

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-20 and add new claims 21-31 as follows:

1. – 20. (Currently Cancelled)

21. (New) A method for forming an anastomosis between a host vessel and a bypass graft, the method comprising:

providing an anastomotic fitting comprising:

 a base having a proximal end and a distal end,

 a leading segment extending from the distal end of the base and having a cross-section with a radius of curvature of the host vessel, and

 a rear segment extending from the distal end of the base and being deflectable;

 advancing the leading segment through an opening in a wall of the host vessel whereby the opening is dilated;

 deflecting the rear segment;

 advancing the rear segment into the opening in a wall of the host vessel; and

 releasing the deflected rear segment whereby the rear segment is positioned within the host vessel and the proximal end of the base extends from the opening.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 further comprising compressing the leading segment and the rear segment against the host vessel wall.

23. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the compressing comprises securing a support device about the base of the fitting.

24. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the rear segment is deflected toward the base of the fitting.

25. (New) The method of claim 21 further comprising securing the bypass graft to the base of the fitting.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the securing the bypass graft to the base is performed before advancing the leading segment into the opening within the host vessel.

27. (New) The method of claim 25 further comprising forming an angled connection between the graft vessel and the host vessel.
28. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the anastomosis is formed without deforming the host vessel.
29. (New) A system for forming an anastomosis between a host vessel and a bypass graft, the system comprising:
 - an anastomotic fitting comprising:
 - a base having a proximal end and a distal end,
 - a leading segment extending from the distal end of the base and having a cross-section with a radius of curvature of the host vessel, and
 - a rear segment extending from the distal end of the base and being deflectable; and
 - means for sheathlessly positioning the fitting within an opening within a wall of the host vessel, the positioning means comprising means for deflecting the rear segment.
30. (New) The system of claim 29 further comprising:
 - a support device;
 - means for securing the support device to the base of the fitting.
31. (New) The system of claim 29 wherein the fitting is configured to produce an angled connection between the graft vessel and the host vessel.